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PUNK
TALAJIĆ
ARCINIEGA

MASTER OF KUNG FU



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my family did long ago, when I was raised in a place isolated from the rest of the world. I learned many things there: that my name means 'the Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu.

"It was not until I entered the wider world that I learned to use my expertise for good. I've fought international evil with MI6 and cosmic threats with the Avengers. But I'll always work to strike down injustice, even when I have no master but myself."



MARVEL COMICS proudly presents

MASTER OF KUNG FU

in "SHANG-CHI'S DAY OFF"

title page

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...THAT'S RIGHT, CAROL.
AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE BIZARRE
SINKHOLE OPENED AROUND MIDNIGHT
LAST NIGHT. NO INJURIES TO REPORT,
BUT A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ZOO
HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE BELOVED
OCTOPUS, RUTH, IS AMONG THE
ANIMALS MISSING AT
THIS TIME.

TWO
HUNDRED
AND NINETY-
EIGHT.

RUTH THE OCTOPUS
IS BELIEVED TO HAVE
TRAVELED INTO THE SEWER
SYSTEM VIA THE SINKHOLE,
AND A SEARCH IS CURRENTLY
ON FOR ONE OF THE
ZOO'S BIGGEST
ATTRACTIONS.

TWO
HUNDRED
AND NINETY-
NINE.

EEP.

WELL, CAROL, LOOKS
LIKE SEEING IF THE SEAT
IS UP OR DOWN WILL BE THE
LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES
TONIGHT! AM
I RIGHT?

THREE
HUNDRED!
GOOD JOB,
CHEE!

YOU
DISGUST ME,
DAVID.



WE'VE
EARNED A TREAT.
LET'S GO GET
SOME ICE
CREAM.

EEP!
EEP! EEP!

SHANG-CHI'S DAY OFF

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"WE CAN PICK UP WHERE
WE LEFT OFF NEAR THE ZOO.
MAYBE THAT ICE CREAM
TRUCK WILL BE THERE!"





HAAAA!







IS THIS IT?

NO, IT'S A FEW DOORS UP AHEAD ON THE LEFT, I THINK.



SO WHAT WERE YOU SAYING AGAIN? YOU GOT OTHER OPTIONS?

WELL, I'M NOT SAYING **OPTIONS**, BUT I GOT OPTIONS, YA KNOW? I'M ONLY REALLY DOING THIS TO PAY MY WAY THROUGH SCHOOL. I DON'T **HAVE** TO BE DOING THIS IS WHAT I'M SAYING.

I DON'T EVEN REALLY HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST SHANG-CHI--JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, REALLY... THIS IS THE DOOR RIGHT HERE.



OKAY, SO NOW WE JUST STAND HERE? WHAT EXACTLY DO WE DO? SHOULD I HAVE PACKED A LUNCH?

YOU DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING TO EAT? WE COULD BE HERE A WHILE. WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO WAIT UNTIL DR. PRASIS COMES TO GET SHANG-CHI.

HE CREEPS ME OUT. I GET WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO...ACTUALLY, OKAY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO. HE CREEPS ME OUT.

WHO? MEL? I'VE SEEN WORSE. AT LEAST HE'S NOT--

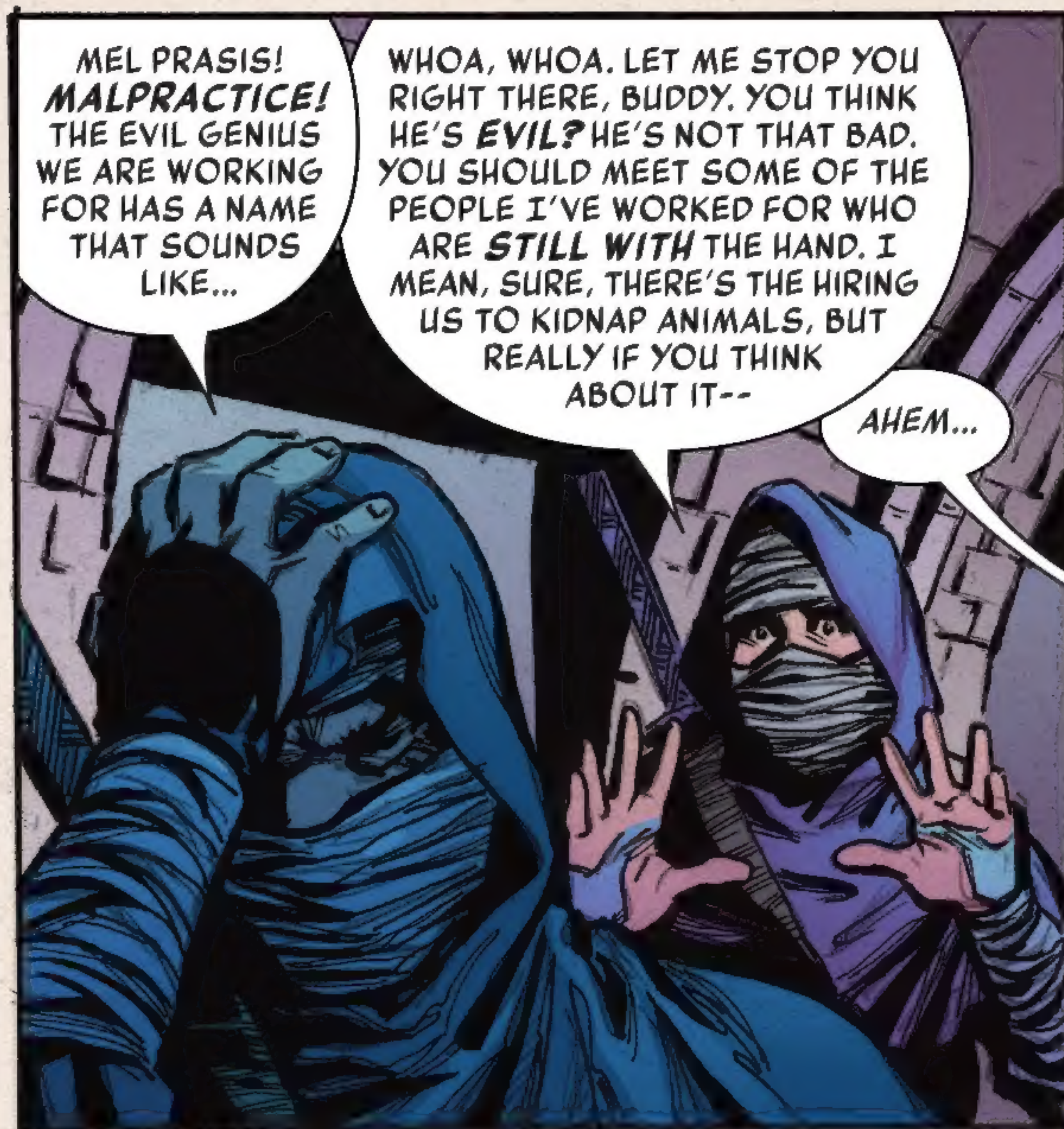


WAIT, WHO IS MEL?

DR. PRASIS! YOU DIDN'T THINK HIS FIRST NAME WAS "DOCTOR," DID YOU? I SWEAR, YOU ROOKIES...

MEL?! DOCTOR MEL PRASIS?!? THAT'S WHO WE ARE WORKING FOR? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

YEAH, WHY? YOU KNOW HIM?



MEL PRASIS! **MALPRACTICE!** THE EVIL GENIUS WE ARE WORKING FOR HAS A NAME THAT SOUNDS LIKE...

WHOA, WHOA. LET ME STOP YOU RIGHT THERE, BUDDY. YOU THINK HE'S **EVIL**? HE'S NOT THAT BAD. YOU SHOULD MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE I'VE WORKED FOR WHO ARE **STILL WITH THE HAND**. I MEAN, SURE, THERE'S THE HIRING US TO KIDNAP ANIMALS, BUT REALLY IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT--

AHEM...



IS THE
PATIENT
READY?

UM!
YESSIR!

STRAPPED
AND SECURED,
JUST LIKE YOU
ASKED, SIR!

GOOD,
GOOD. YOU
TWO GO MAKE
SURE THE OTHER
PATIENT IS READY.
I'D LIKE A MOMENT
ALONE WITH THIS
ONE.



WELL, WELL, **MASTER OF KUNG FU**, I'M SURE YOU'RE WAKING UP QUITE SURPRISED TO BE IN THIS LITTLE PREDICAMENT. THE RESTRAINTS ARE MERELY FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION, AS IS THE SEDATIVE I'VE GIVEN YOU.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. MY NAME IS--

DR. MEL PRASIS. A TRULY UNFORTUNATE NAME FOR A DOCTOR. YOU COULD NOT ESCAPE THE ASSOCIATIONS EVEN IN YOUR...UNUSUAL FIELD.

OH MY! I SUPPOSE MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME. THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW NEVER TO CALL ME--

MALPRACTICE.



NO! DON'T CALL ME THAT! IT'S **PRASIS!** I AM A **GENIUS!**

ONE WOULD THINK YOU WOULD BE A BIT HUMBLER AFTER BEING SO EASILY--

CAPTURED?



YES. CAPTURED. THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE. CAPTURED. IN FACT--

MEL. I SAID I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. SO CAN WE PLEASE SKIP THE PART WHERE YOU EXPLAIN YOUR EVIL SCHEME?

WELL. NO. WAIT A SECOND! THIS IS MY FAVORITE PART! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO--

PULL?

STOP THAT!



THE TIME FOR TALKING IS DONE. YOU WILL NOW LISTEN TO ME. I SAY I KNOW YOU BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN ON TO YOU AND YOUR...I'LL BE GENEROUS AND SAY HAND SPLINTER CELL, FOR WEEKS.

"IT ALL STARTED WITH THE RATS. THE REST OF THE WORLD FOCUSED ON THE PIZZA, BUT I SAW WHAT NO ONE ELSE COULD IN THEIR MOVEMENTS-- NOT RANDOM TICS, BUT KUNG FU.

"HARMLESS ENOUGH-- ABSURD, EVEN. BUT I WAS ALARMED.

"KNOWING SOMETHING CRIMINAL WAS HAPPENING WAS ONE THING, BUT WHEN THERE WAS A SPIKE IN MISSING PETS IN THE AREA--THEN, I GOT ANGRY.



"IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO FIND THE CAUSE OF ALL THE MISSING ANIMALS.

"NINJAS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT TRYING TO ADOPT RESCUE ANIMALS MIGHT BE ONE OF THE STUPIDEST THINGS I HAVE EVER HEARD OF...



"...BUT I KNEW THEY WERE DANGEROUS. WHOEVER HIRED THEM WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THEIR MARTIAL ARTS PROWESS THAN THEIR SUBTLETY.

"I FOLLOWED THEM FOR WEEKS, IN AND OUT OF SEWERS--



"--TRYING TO FIND WHERE THEY WERE TAKING THE ANIMALS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHY.

"UNTIL ONE DAY I FOUND SOMETHING I WISHED I HADN'T.



"BELOW THE STREETS, I SAW THE BODIES OF ALL MANNER OF ANIMALS. ONCE BELOVED PETS, NOW DISCARDED AND COVERED IN SCARS FROM EXPERIMENTAL OPERATIONS. IT BROUGHT ME TO MY KNEES.

"A PERSON WHO CAN ABUSE AND DISCARD THE INNOCENT IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING.

"IT WAS IN THIS DARKEST HOUR THAT A LIGHT SHOWED THROUGH. I DISCOVERED ONE BRAVE SOUL, TERRIFIED DUE TO THE HORRORS HE HAD EXPERIENCED, BUT VERY MUCH ALIVE.

"I RESCUED THIS ANIMAL AND TRIED TO PUT WHAT I SAW BEHIND ME AS I INTENSIFIED MY SEARCH FOR THE MADMAN RESPONSIBLE.

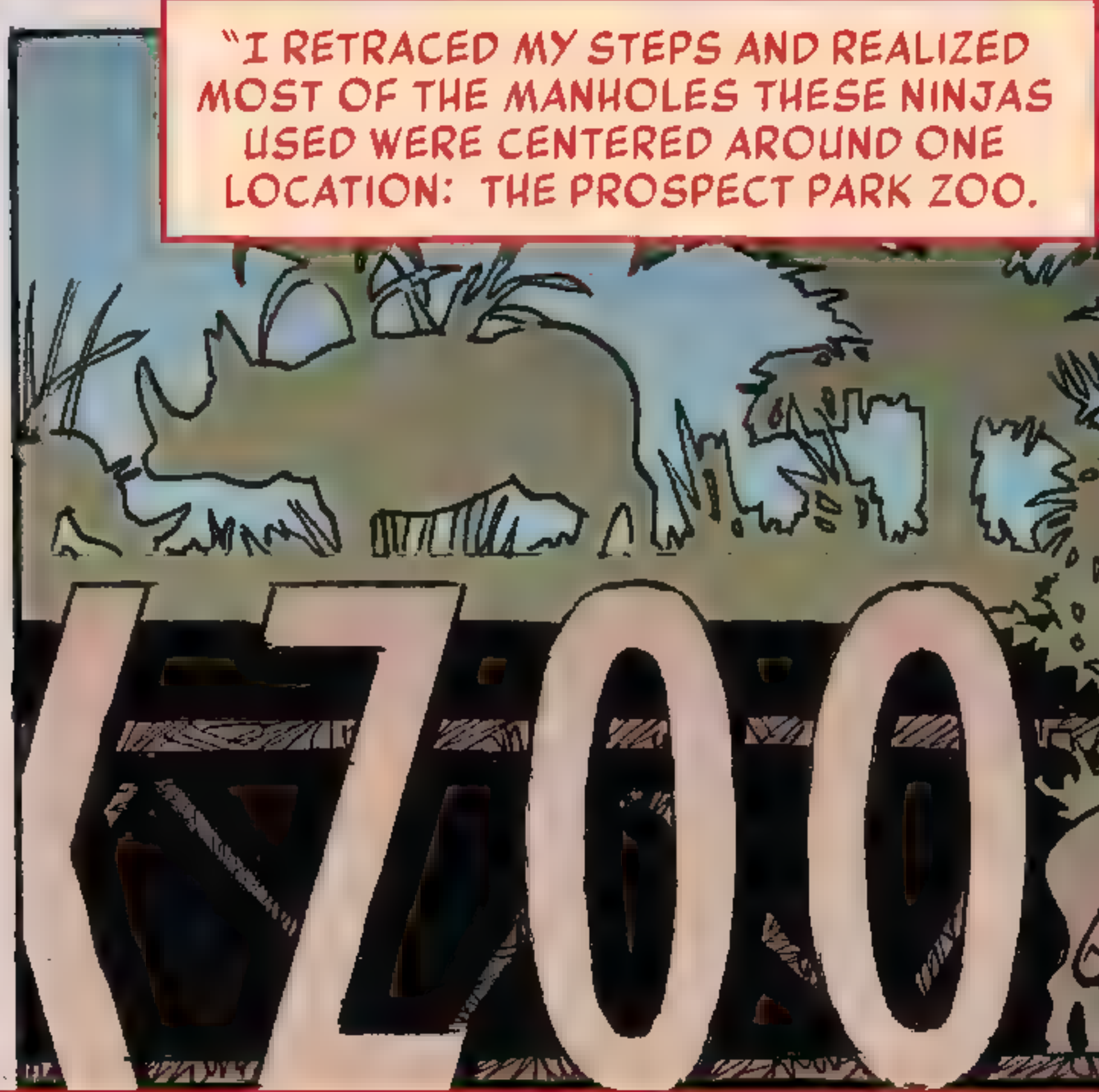




"I TRIED TO DROP THE LITTLE MONKEY OFF AT A SHELTER, BUT TO NO AVAIL. HE WOULD NOT LEAVE MY SIDE. HE SEEMED TO TRUST ME, AND SO I NURSED HIM BACK TO HEALTH.

"I EVENTUALLY NAMED THE LITTLE MONKEY CHEE, AND HE TOOK A LIKING TO KUNG FU, SO I BEGAN TO TRAIN WITH HIM.

"I BEGAN TO REALIZE SOMEONE HAD ALREADY TAUGHT HIM--OR FORCED HIM TO LEARN. THE **SAME PERSON**, POSSIBLY, WHO GAVE THE RATS THEIR KNOWLEDGE.



"I RETRACED MY STEPS AND REALIZED MOST OF THE MANHOLES THESE NINJAS USED WERE CENTERED AROUND ONE LOCATION: THE PROSPECT PARK ZOO.

"I WAS PREPARED TO USE MY S.I.S. AND HOMELAND SECURITY CONNECTIONS TO IDENTIFY MY TARGET, BUT THE ZOO WAS VERY HELPFUL AND PROVIDED WHAT I NEEDED TO CRACK THE CASE.

"THEY EXPLAINED THAT A FORMER DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEE--**YOU**, DR. PRASIS--WOULD BEHAVE STRANGELY WITH THE ANIMALS, OFTEN SPEAKING TO THEM ABOUT OLD SAMMO HUNG FILMS.

"YOU WERE EVENTUALLY FIRED FOR TRYING TO SMUGGLE RUTH, THE BELOVED OCTOPUS, OUT OF THE ZOO ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK."



I QUIT, I WAS NOT FIRED.

AND GOOD FOR YOU FOR PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER! YOU STILL ARE MISSING ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE, AND IT'S THE BIGGEST ONE!





YOU'RE MY NEXT EXPERIMENT!

THAT'S RIGHT!
THE CULMINATION OF
MY LIFE'S WORK. STRIVING
TIRELESSLY FOR YEARS
TO DEVELOP AN ARMY OF
KUNG FU ANIMALS PAYS
OFF TONIGHT!

SURELY THIS
WILL GET ME BACK
INTO THE HAND AFTER
THAT LITTLE CHRISTMAS
PARTY SNAFU!

YOU SEE, SHANG-CHI, I'VE TRIED TO TRAIN ANIMALS. I'VE USED DARK ARTS, MODERN TECHNOLOGY, AND THE BEST ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGISTS THAT DIDN'T CHARGE TOO MUCH. NONE OF IT WORKED.

YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO KUNG FU, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE HIM KICK. THAT'S NOT JUST A FUNNY SAYING--I WANTED KUNG FU HORSES.

PROBLEM IS, WHILE I CAN TEACH ANIMALS KUNG FU, I CAN'T CONTROL THEM. NOT FULLY--THEIR BASE INSTINCTS ARE TOO STRONG. **BRAIN SURGERY** IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET WHAT I NEED!

I FINALLY HAVE THE TOOLS AND THE TALENT TO MAKE AN ARMY OF KUNG FU SOLDIERS THAT WILL ANSWER ONLY TO ME! IT STARTS WITH **YOU**, SHANG-CHI, AND IMPLANTING YOUR BEAUTIFUL KUNG FU BRAIN INTO **RUTH THE OCTOPUS!!!**

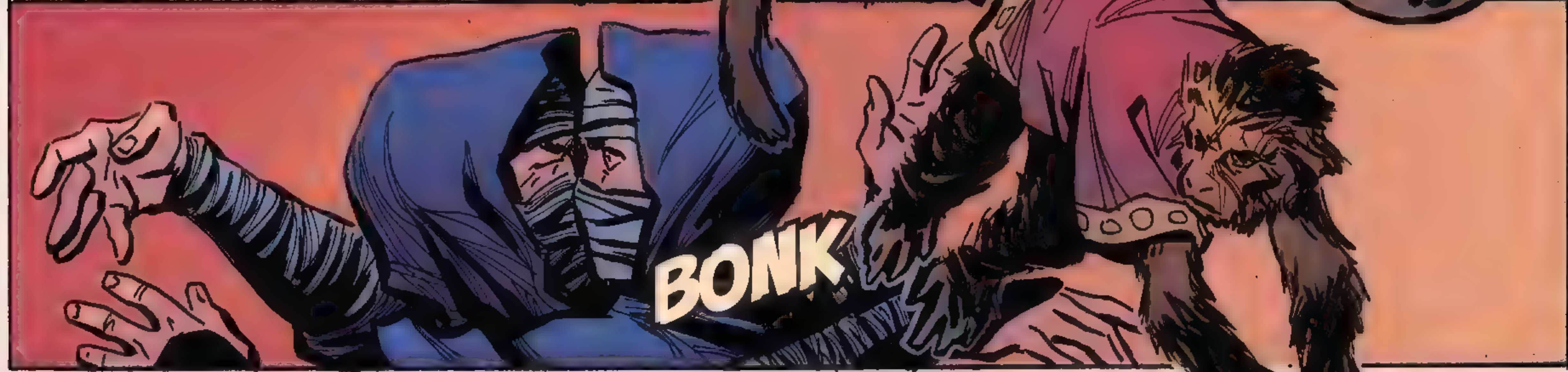
I WILL BE FREE OF THESE SHACKLES IN 22 SECONDS. IF YOU ALL START RUNNING NOW, YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF ESCAPING.

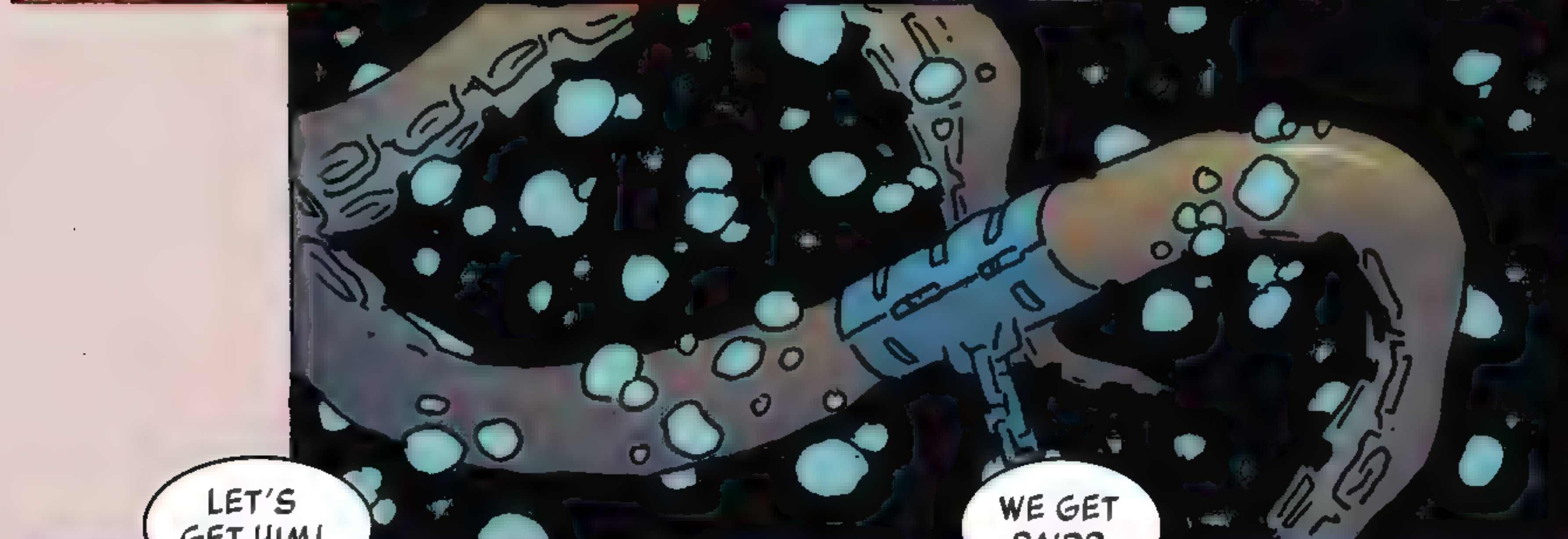
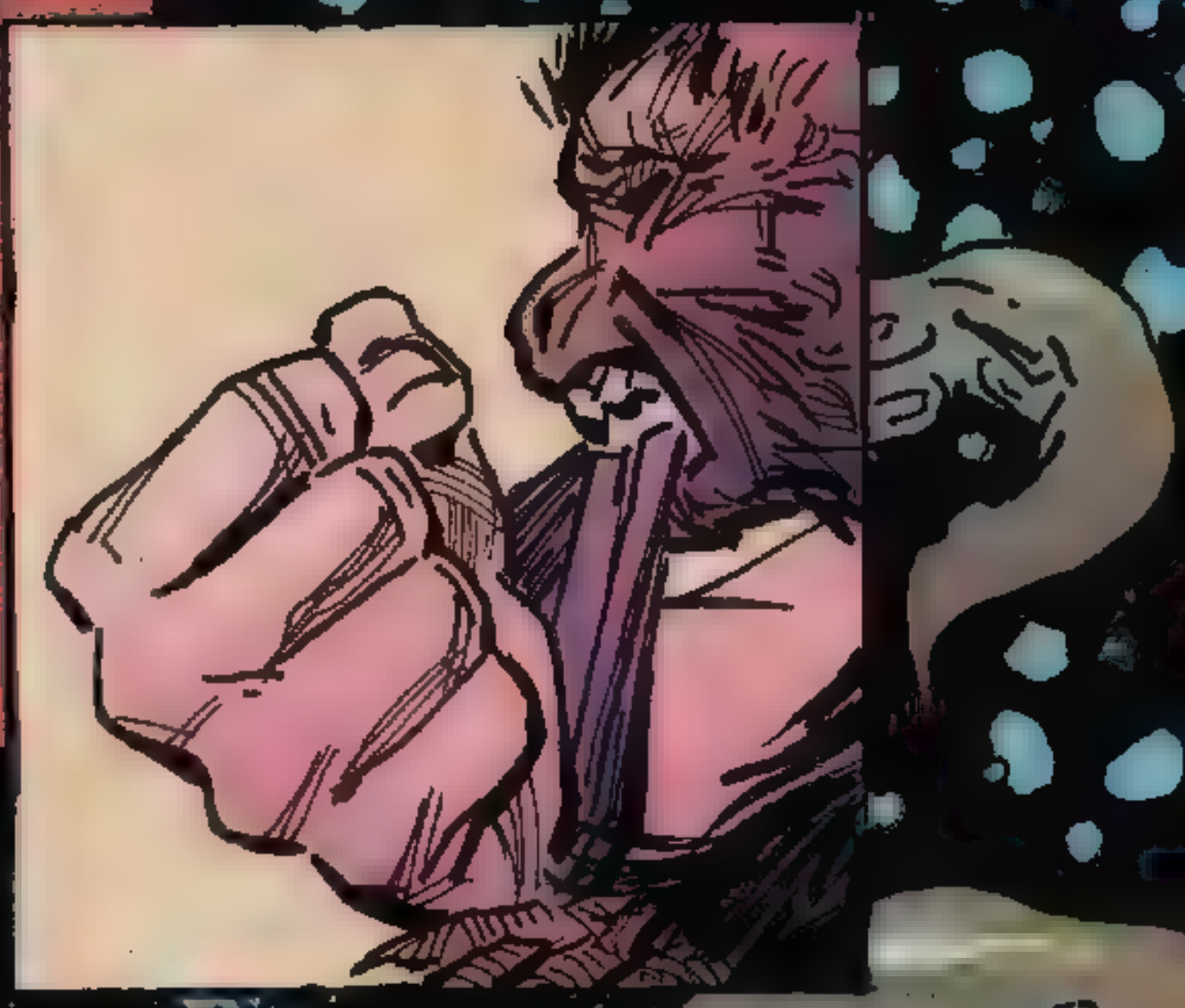
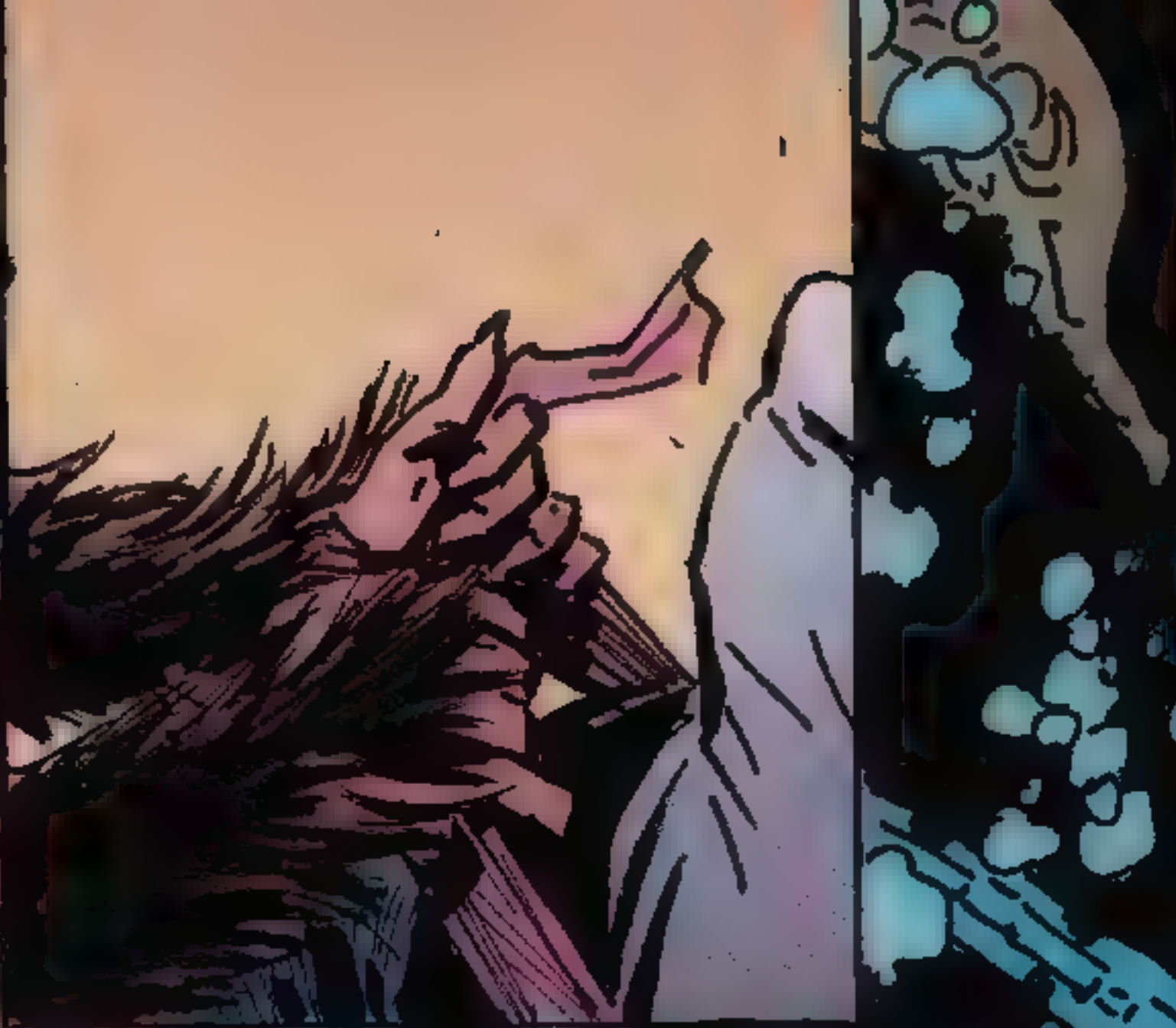
HA!
GUY'S GOT JOKES!

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE AN OCTOPUS, BUD.

YEAH, HOW YOU FIGURE YOU'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF THOSE SHACKLES, KARATE KID?

EE
AH HA!









HELLO, DAVE?
YES, GET MY BOAT
READY. NO, NO, NO.
EVERYTHING
IS FINE!

JUST GOING
TO GO OUT AND
PICK UP SOME
PIZZA FOR THE
BOYS.

PLEASE
HURRY--
THEY'RE,
AH--VERY
HUNGRY.



DOCTOR!
WE CAN'T STOP
HIM!

HUFF HUFF
HUFF

WE
CAN'T EVEN
SLOW HIM
DOWN!

UH...YEAH,
THAT'S FINE. I'M
CALLING FOR BACK-
UP RIGHT NOW.

PRASIS!!!



PRASIS!

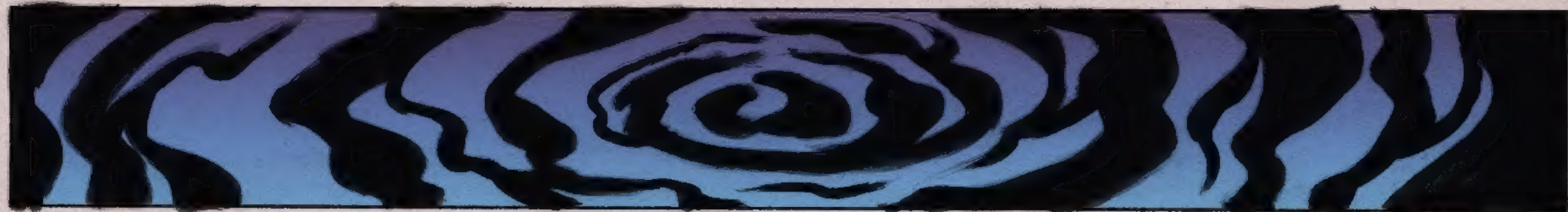
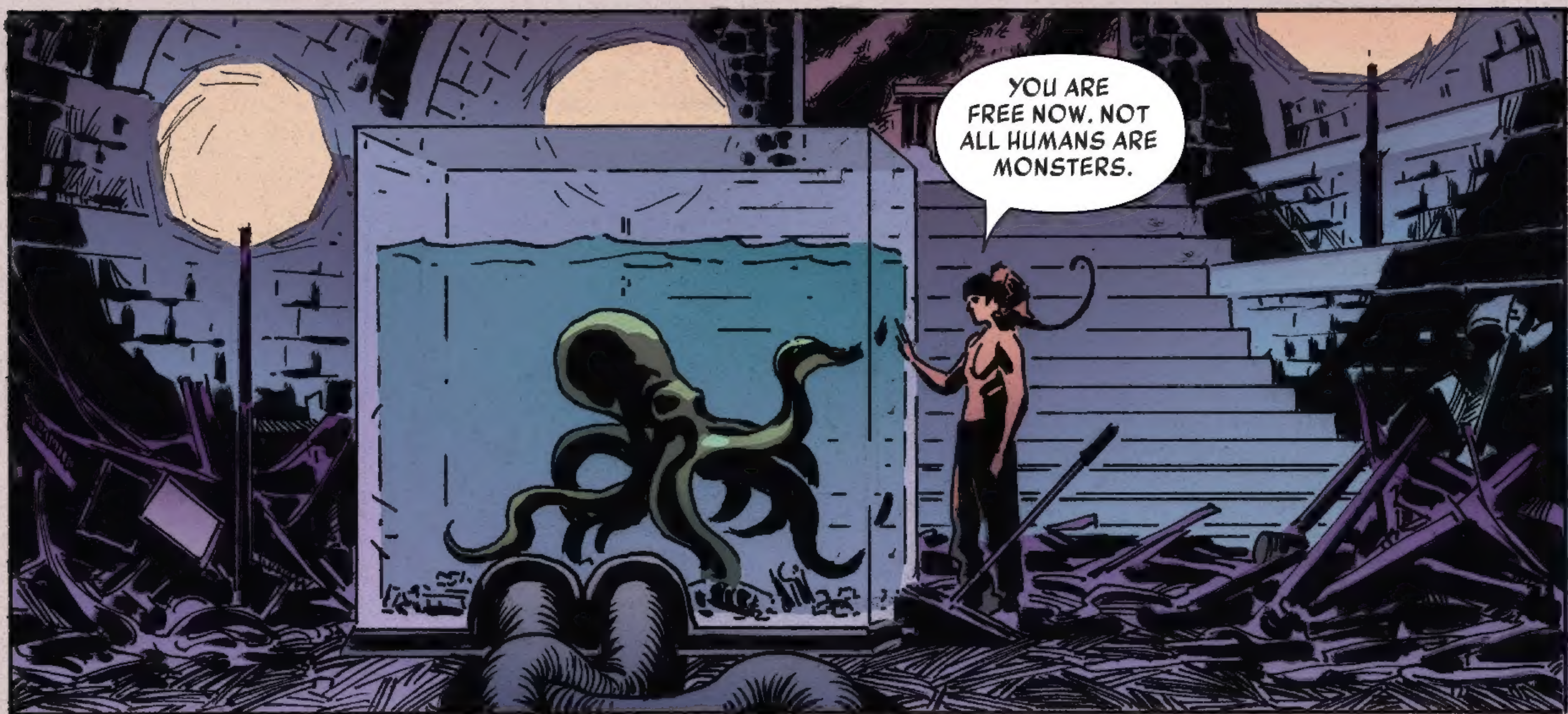
YOU
CAN'T
RUN!



YOU'RE
OUT OF NINJAS,
AND TIME,
PRASIS!

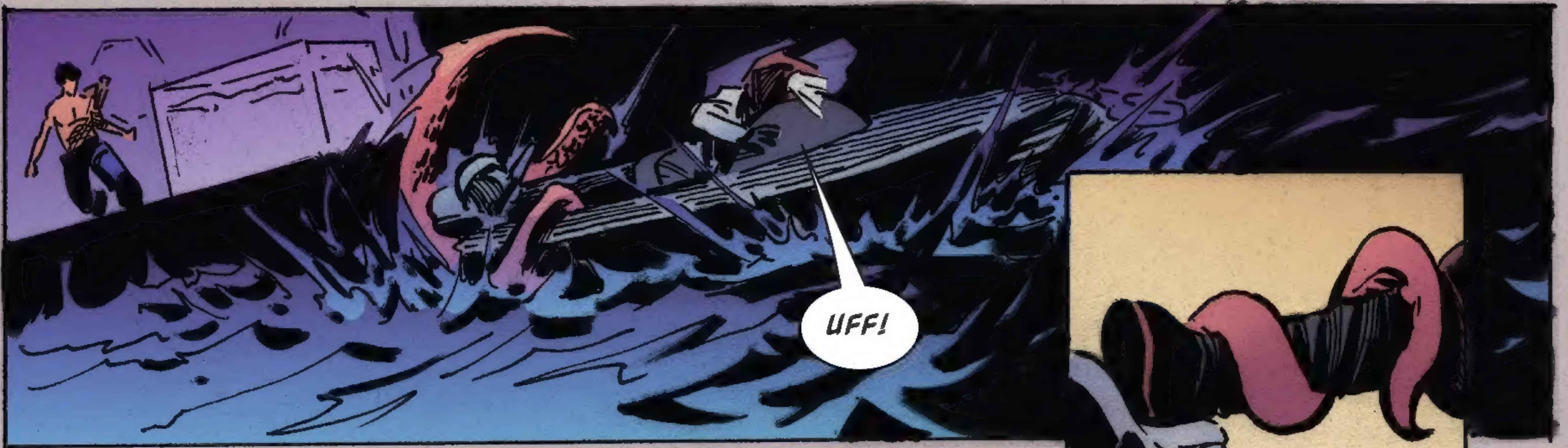
RUU?

YOU'RE
RIGHT, CHEE.
FIRST THINGS
FIRST.





I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING AWAY!



UFF!



WHOOOOOSH

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M NOT GETTING AWAY!

SPLAT



SLAP



CRACK



WELL,
WE THANK
YOU AGAIN,
SHANG-CHI!
AND THANKS
FOR THE
SELFIE!

IT'S JUST
A SHAME YOU NEVER
FOUND RUTH. THE ZOO
WILL BE DISAPPOINTED
TO HEAR THAT
NEWS.

GLAD I COULD
ASSIST, OFFICER.
AS FAR AS RUTH GOES,
SHE COULD BE IN THE
OCEAN BY NOW!



WELL,
CHEE, THAT
WAS ONE WAY
TO SPEND OUR
DAY OFF!

REE?

LET'S
GO SEE
ABOUT THAT
ICE CREAM!



THE END.

—alio colt.

